



HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 18, 2012

1:00 PM

**POLICE DEPARTMENT –
BRAD CROSS ROOM**

Attendees: Chief Mark E. Doyle, Chief Michael Carrier, Kyle Fox, Bob L'Heureux, Fran L'Heureux, Paul Konieczka, Norman Peppin, Glenn Wallace, Tim Thompson and Claire Rioux.

Excused Absent: Finlay Rothhaus, Tom Touseau.

Chairman Doyle called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Chairman Doyle called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting Minutes:

The November 22, 2011 minutes were approved on a motion duly made by Fran L'Heureux and seconded by Kyle Fox. 9-0-2 Abstained Paul Konieczka and Tim Thompson.

Comments from the Press and Public: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- Report on agenda item/ November 22, 2011 meeting / Traffic Signal on Rte 3 at the Commons/Dunkin Donuts/ Kyle Fox

Chairman Doyle stated if I recall correctly, there was some discussion that the traffic signal on Rte 3 at the Commons would be repaired or re-constructed sometime in the future.

Mr. Fox replied currently this project is in CIP to be replaced. In the meantime Adam had Electric Light come down on a couple of occasions. They replaced the defective parts and settings were redone. I know Councilman Finlay Rothhaus had a concern that the lights at the Commons/Dunkin Donuts were not functioning properly. (Finlay drives by at 5am) Since the repair I have not heard any complaints concerning that light.

Chairman Doyle interjected; I also have not heard anything at this time.

On a motion of Paul Konieczka and duly seconded by Tim Thompson and Bob L'Heureux the report was accepted. All in favor. 9-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Re-appointments to the Committee/ Chief Doyle**

Chairman Doyle stated that the Highway Safety Committee has 5 positions up for reappointment. I understand all have expressed some interest on staying aboard. Does anyone have any discussion relative to any of the members? Since there is no discussion regarding the reappointments we will vote on these nominations one at a time.

1. Paul Konieczka term is due to expire on 6/30/2012, the re-appointment term will expire 6/30/2013. (one year term)

On a motion of Tim Thompson and duly seconded by Bob L'Heureux the nomination of Paul Konieczka was accept and carried with 1 abstained, Paul Konieczka 8-0-1.

Fran L'Heureux asked if these appointments would have to go through Council.

Chief Doyle replied he did not think that the appointments have to go through Council. The Chief added that he will send the Council a notice of the new appointees and vet it through them. I am not sure if we did have the Highway Safety appointments go through Council. What I will also do is sent the minutes to the Town Manager, and let her know we reappointed these individuals to the Highway Safety Committee and let her make the decision if this should go through Council.

Fran L'Heureux interjected that she just wanted to make sure that everything was kept on the up and up.

2. Glenn Wallace term is due to expire on 6/30/2012, the re-appointment term will expire 6/30/2013 (one year term)

On a motion of Bob L'Heureux and duly seconded by Fran L'Heureux the nomination of Glenn Wallace was accept and carried with 1 abstained, Glenn Wallace 8-0-1.

3. Norm Peppin term is due to expire 6/30/2012 the re-appointment term will expire 6/30/2015 (3 year term)

On a motion of Fran L'Heureux and duly seconded by Glenn Wallace the nomination of Norm Peppin was accept and carried with 1 abstained, Norm Peppin 8-0-1.

4. Bob L'Heureux term due to expire 6/30/2012 the re-appointment term will expire 6/30/2015 (3 year term)

On a motion of Fran L'Heureux and duly seconded by Paul Konieczka and Norm Peppin the nomination of Bob L'Heureux was accept and carried with 1 abstained, Bob L'Heureux 8-0-1.

5. Fran L'Heureux term due to expire 6/30/2012 the re-appointment term will expire 6/30/2014 (2 year term)

On a motion of Glenn Wallace and duly seconded by Chief Michael Currier the nomination of Fran L'Heureux was accept and carried with 1 abstained, Fran L'Heureux 8-0-1.

Chairman Doyle congratulated all of the re-appointees.

Tim Thompson researched the Highway Safety Committee website via his smart phone and found that the following: General members are recommended by the Chairman and approved by a majority of the non General members of the Committee. The answer to Fran's question is that the Committee itself approves the membership.

Chairman Doyle thanked Mr. Thompson, this information was very helpful.

2 Request by Tim White of 3 Chapel Lane, requesting the committee to look into the possibility of installing a no parking sign on the south side of Chapel Lane across from his driveway (in front of the green fence) Kyle Fox

Kyle Fox stated Tim White contacted him regarding an issue he was having backing out of his driveway. As you are aware Chapel Lane is a fairly narrow road. Mr. White stated whenever the church has events a cone is placed opposite Mr. White's driveway and the green fence which seems to work fine (Kyle circulated pictures from Mr. White for committee review). He has a difficult time getting out of his driveway when other events are held at the church, which are at different times mostly at night which causes a problem of getting in and out of his driveway. I did take a ride over to the site, the time I was there everything was fine making it tough to gage but I can imagine he might have a problem.

Norm Peppin interjected that if he puts 2 signs on each side of the driveway that this may solve Mr. White's problem.

Kyle Fox replied that the problem is caused on the other side of the street. There is a reasonable expectation that he should be able to back out of his driveway. This is somewhat the same as the next agenda item on Bambi Trail. Personally I am not sure if I like the idea of putting no parking signs on someone else's property for a different persons good.

Chairman Doyle stated that is what I was going to ask, does it look like we will have to have a sign on someone else's property or their front lawn?

Kyle Fox replied that this is a little different there is no front yard; there is a solid green fence with some kind of fabric on it. A No Parking sign here would not be intrusive like it would be on Bambi.

Fran L'Heureux inquired if Kyle knew how long this person has been living there.

Kyle Fox replied that he did not have that information.

Bob L'Heureux asked Norm to refresh his memory. Have we gone over this before?

Norm Peppin replied yes something like this.

Bob L'Heureux also stated I think it may be right there. In these pictures there is no snow, but during the winter when it snows, because of the fence there is very little road between the road and the fence for snow. Once you have a heavy snow plus cars' parking there it is almost impossible for Mr. White to get into his driveway, even if he backs into the driveway. I would have no problem to but a no parking this side of the street up to route 3 because it does not affect the property owner there. I am not too crazy for putting signs all over.

Norm Peppin inquired does the church pay for the use of that barrier?

Bob L'Heureux replied that the cone is there only for church services, but if you restrict parking there...

Fran L'Heureux interjected what I am afraid of is ... I agree with you regarding the driveway, but if you do it for one private citizen and if another private citizen wants a no parking signs... you did it for this person how come you do not do it for the other?

Norm Peppin stated this issue is different it is a safety concern.

Bob L'Heureux stated I am not saying I am correct in this but you could be justified in placing signage because it is a safety issue. In winter conditions when you have the snow banks and vehicles are parked on both sides of the road, it would be difficult for a fire truck to navigate. I am not saying that it cannot be done.

Chairman Doyle responded right, my question would be first and foremost is that we are able to say we can get traffic in and out of there up along Chapel Lane. If we can get a fire truck up there than there is no imposition to traffic other than this gentleman having the inconvenience of back out of his driveway when there are events? So this opens another can of worms, because if we put no parking signs up there for the edification of this one individual and it does not address a crime this means all around the clock problem. This will open another door for other people to say; I have a parking problem because so and so has a party every Saturday night and they park in the front yard I cannot back out of my driveway. I would be a little leery to put up no parking signs, maybe the simple solution is speaking to the people at the church and mention that when people have events at the church they are to put cones out.

Chief Michael Carrier stated what I can do is see when the next event is and see if the Fire Truck can indeed go through, if the fire truck can't it will be posted a fire lane.

Chairmen Doyle stated that seems to be an easy solution.

Paul Konieczka stated if indeed the fire truck can not make it down the road, this would be the issue. It does not matter if vehicles are parked on one side or the other; the issue is whether the fire truck can make it down the street.

Chairman Doyle responded exactly.

Bob L'Heureux stated at this time they can park on both side of the road. If it is a fire lane they would only be able to park on one side of the road. You would automatically have more room.

Chairman Doyle interjected to the Chief's point if we can not get a fire truck down the road we may have to post the entire area. This does not make it specific to this one gentlemen; it would be the whole length of the road.

Norm Peppin stated this makes it a totally new issue.

Bob L'Heureux inquired if this issue should be tabled and brought up at the next meeting after the review by the fire department.

Bob L'Heureux made a motion to table item # 2. Mr. White's request until such time we receive evaluation from the fire department. The motion was duly seconded by Fran L'Heureux. All in Favor 9-0-0.

Kyle Fox stated that he will contact the church as well and see if that can help solve Mr. White's problem.

Fran L'Heureux interjected reading Mr. Whites letter he states the problem he experiences is when people attend functions at the church, usually it is the none religious events. I am thinking it is the book sales, yard sales etc.

Chief Currier stated my concern is that we have access to the road. If cars park on both sides of the road I want to be able to confirm that we will have access to that road, I want to verify this to make sure we can make a turn in the road; we may have to go as far as coming off of rte 3 coming onto the road.

Fran L'Heureux agreed it is extremely narrow in that section.

Chief Doyle stated this agenda item will be carried over to the next meeting.

3. Request by Paul Rivard, 18 Silver Doe Lane, for a "No Parking Zone" and posting at the entrance of Bambi Trail. (see attached file) / Chief Doyle

Chairman Doyle inquired if everyone got a chance to review the diagram, sent with the agenda.

Response: Yes

Chairman Doyle continued, I actually got a chance to speak to Mr. Green who lives at the corner of Bambi and Baboosic Lake Road. His motor home seems to be causing part of the issue; I asked him if he could park the motor home in another area, this could solve some of the issue. He replied not a problem, and in fact he was not aware that it was causing a problem. What I did notice was coming out of Silver Doe Lane that there was no stop sign at the corner; I thought there should be a stop sign at that corner. The reason I say this is all of the new developments seem to have a stop sign at every intersection. What caused some of the issue here is that cars are just blowing out of Silver Doe Lane on to Bambi and curl around onto Baboosic Lake Road without stopping or slowing this causes vehicles coming around Baboosic Lake the difficulty to get around the large motor home and almost plowing into each other because they did not stop. My recommendation would be not to install a no parking sign at the corner but rather to install a stop sign at that corner. Kyle do you have any comment on this?

Kyle Fox replied I guess I do not 100% agree with that, there is a lot of intersections in developments that do not have stop signs.

Chairman Doyle explained we never had a problem there, there is never been a concerns about accidents, complaints, only this one issue; the parking of the motor home. I have not had a chance to talk to the complainant who made the service request of whether this is continuing, which I certainly can do. I have not heard from Mr. Rivard since this came to our attention and I have not seen the motor home park in that area the few times that I have driven by. I am assuming Mr. Green is doing his best, he told me that they are re-designing their driveway to accommodate their big motor home. He assured me that there would not be a problem in the future.

Norm Peppin asked would this need any kind of warrant?

Paul Konieczka replied it probably would not it all depends on the development and the number of houses.

Kyle Fox interjected that there are plenty of streets in town that do not have stop signs internal to the subdivision. This does not take care of the parking issue, again we do not want to set a precedent.

Chairman Doyle stated that is a good point.

Glenn Wallace asked is it Mr. Green motor home that is causing this problem. Has anyone else talk to him?

Chairman Doyle replied it is my understanding that it is Mr. Green and his motor home causing the problem. If his motor home was in the driveway he would have a car parked in the street. What would happen when a car came around the curve they would not stop but curl around and

the car coming in from Baboosic Lake Road, causing the cars coming around the curve to face each other because they were trying to avoid the car to their right.

Glenn Wallace stated if Mr. Green and his motor home is the only problem and I think he is amendable to stop parking in the street, there probably no need for a stop sign. Is this true or false?

Group of people replied: I think it is true.

Chairman Doyle stated I certainly can monitor this, I have not heard from Mr. Rivard to find out if it is a continuing problem. When I had my conversation with Mr. Green he certainly was amendable to not parking in the street anymore, he also stated that he was not aware that there was a problem there to begin with.

Bob L'Heureux stated we were there this morning (Fran and Bob) and an interesting thing happened. First thing I wrote down... Stop sign Silver Doe, No parking from Silver Doe Lane to Lake Road on that side up and from Lake Rd. to this guy's driveway, were there would be no parking anytime. That is what I am going to recommend to this committee. First thing we noticed is when you are coming out of Bambi there is a stop sign that is already on Lake Road, it is behind some shrubs, and also moved over.

Fran L'Heureux interjected someone has a bush planted on private property. It is a small tree and it hides the stop sign.

Bob L'Heureux also stated the stop sign in my opinion should be moved over.

Chairman Doyle asked do you mean closer to Silver Doe Lane?

Bob L'Heureux replied no, when you go to Bambi Trail on to Lake Road there is a stop sign on the right hand side, it is way over and it should be brought closer to the road.

Fran L'Heureux also stated the sign is 20 ft. in the property instead of the roadway.

Bob L'Heureux explained when we were stopped there was a UPS truck trying to turn in, there was no way he could do it, and we were not stopped at the intersection we were further back. So obviously there is a problem there because it is narrow, if you park any vehicle there whoever is coming in is going to end up on the wrong side of the road regardless of which way you are going. You may want to think about that, putting a no parking sign on Silver Doe and Lake Road.

Chief Currier asked don't you think you are setting precedence for Marty Drive, Lesa Drive and many others?

Bob L'Heureux replied this is not the same issue; you do not have cars traveling 35 miles an hr. to make a turn.

Chairman Doyle stated right now you have a state law that restricts parking from a corner; I believe it is 50 feet.

Bob L'Heureux stated if that is so there may be a simple solution if we move the stop sign 20 ft from the corner, I believe that would alleviate people parking in that area.

Glenn Wallace asked closer which way?

Chairman Doyle replied closer to Bambi trail, so that you can see the sign, is that correct Bob? I think this is a simple fix for this piece but I am not all that convinced that the no parking signs are going to help the situation, especially since Mr. Green is amendable and it sounds like he is. The stop sign was only an observation and had nothing to do with the service request to begin with.

Glenn Wallace stated I agree with others that we do not want to set precedence and start putting stop signs and no parking everywhere, others would want to do it. I think it would helpful to resolve this if we get Mr. Green to stop parking there and get an agreement in writing; as long as he agrees to that there would be no issue.

Norm Peppin interjected it seems to me that there is something on the books years ago regarding 25ft. from the stop sign.

Chairman Doyle stated this would have nothing to do with Mr. Green, he is parking on the other side of the street where there is no stop sign.

Glenn Wallace if I am hearing the problem correctly it is entirely dependent on Mr. Green and if he is not going to park in the problem area then we do not need to put a sign there. The only reason to have a stop sign at Silver Doe would be if people were parking there so that they would stop.

Chairman Doyle reiterated that yes it would force them to stop and give a look to see if any cars are coming around from Baboosic Lake Road, they would see that they would have to get around the left of the cars that would park in that area. What I will do is get in touch with Mr. Rivard again and find out if the problem is continued, stopped or otherwise. I will have another conversation with Mr. Green and document it to assure the committee that he is still aboard with no problem parking in his driveway and not on the side of the road preventing cars from getting around.

On Motion to table item # 2, request by Paul Rivard, 18 Silver Doe Lane, for a "No Parking Zone" and posting at the entrance of Bambi Trail was made by Glenn Wallace and seconded by Fran L'Heureux, motion carried. 9-0-0

Kyle Fox interjected Chief when you talk to Mr. Green you may want to mention if he would want a bigger curb cut, he could call Public Works and certainly we can look into granting a permit for that.

Bob L'Heureux asked where Mr. Green lives.

Chairman Doyle replied the funny thing is that he does not have a drive way on Bambi it is on Baboosic.

Kyle Fox stated if he does want a curb cut there it may solve the problem, this is something we certainly would be amendable to.

Chairman Doyle stated he would find out.

4. Discussion regarding plans to reconstruct the Bedford Rd. Bridge / Bob L'Heureux

Bob L'Heureux inquired do we have plans to work on Bedford Road Bridge?

Kyle Fox asked where near Pearson?

Bob L'Heureux replied yes

Kyle Fox stated we are actually in the engineering phase.

Bob L'Heureux presented his opinion on this issue. Since I have been around 20 some odd years, I was here when they were using a small bridge, you could only have one vehicle pass at a time. When they first design the bridge some of us had concerns but we were told we were not engineers and we did not know what we were talking about. Over the course of the years the bridge washed out in 1978 and 2006. When that road was completely washed out one of the reasons was because there were not enough culverts and the bridge was at the lowest part of the road. So the question came up while the road is in disrepair why don't you do it and do it right, you should increase the size of the culverts and level off the road. The answer we got at this time was that they could only use the money to rebuild the road the way it was. Fine, I said take that money and apply it for redoing the road. The answer I got was that it could not be done. This issue I am bringing up now is that it is now a safety issue because when that road washes out, and it will happen again, it will create a safety hazard I am talking about police, fire, ambulance, school buses and everything else. I would like this committee to put together some kind of recommendation-- if the town will be doing anything to this road. Bigger culverts are needed and we need to get rid of that low spot to prevent a wash out. This is not from an engineering point it is common sense, just by looking at it.

Chairman Doyle reiterated I am sure that the engineering study will probably delve into that.

Kyle Fox replied yes, I think Bob will be happy. What you heard in 2006 was absolutely correct, actually it was not FEMA money because it was an arterial road making it part of the DOT system, so the \$89,000 came from DOT and had to be applied to fixing as is. In addition we had to get an emergency dredge and fill permit and only could restore what was existing. Moving forward all of the issues you raised is what we are striving to fix, we are going to raise the profile of the road, appropriately size the bridge for a 50 year storm and/or hopefully a 100 year storm. The initial proposal we received from the consultant is that they are looking at three alternatives; one is a small bridge with a single culvert were the water overflows, small bridge with multiple culverts, a bigger bridge were the existing bridge is now. They are looking at three different alternatives too see what is required and what the best economic solution would be, from there they will go into the preliminary design.

Norm Peppin stated we originally wanted to buy an extra 40 feet and that did not happen, now look how the brook has changed, the brook now goes straight through.

Kyle Fox also stated that one of the big factors is that the bypassed bridge may be classified as historic, if it is classified historic, this will be a very constricting point and the bridge will stay as it is.

Bob L'Heureux stated the bottom line is unless that road is raised it does not matter what you put down there, that road is in a low spot and it will keep flooding.

Kyle Fox stated, yes it is the same situation on Wire road, we are waiting for the final approval from DOT and we hope to start construction in the fall, it is an identical situation. We raised the profile of the road we went from a 16 foot pipe to a 62 ft. bridge.

Bob L'Heureux asked when do you plan on starting construction.

Kyle Fox replied if designing and permitting goes as hoped we will be constructing next year.

Bob L'Heureux inquired will there be a public hearing?

Kyle Fox replied we will be having public information meetings.

Bob L'Heureux stated there is a difference between the two meetings.

Norm Peppin interjected the one problem we have is to hold the water back, if we make a barrier all the people in that area will have water back up.

Kyle stated I think this is the biggest difference between the 1985 repair and next years repair. There is a whole lot of engineering going into this, they are looking completely up stream and it is the exact water system from the wire road bridge. They are doing the engineering work to make sure the solution is going to work.

Bob inquired where are the funds coming from?

Kyle replied 20% is from the town and 80% from the state; this is the state bridge program.

Bob asked if the committee would be able to review the final plans so that the committee can express their concerns at a meeting.

Chief Doyle asked Kyle if he would be willing to make a presentation to the Highway Safety Committee once the engineering is completed so that if the committee has concerns they can be addressed.

Kyle replied absolutely.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

1, Through trucking on Back River Road

Bob L'Heureux asked what is the status of the through trucking on Back River Road.

Chairman Doyle replied there is no through trucking on Back River Road.

Fran L'Heureux interjected well you should see the trucks on Back River today.

Chairman Doyle stated "no through trucking" on Back River Road, is part of the ordinance. Kyle and I took care of that. We went before the Council on the final reading and made the amendment and it was adopted. The "no through trucking" signs on Back River Road should be posted.

Fran L'Heureux asked how large the signs are, they look small.

Kyle Fox replied I believe the signs are 30X30; I will go check them out.

2. A discussion regarding committee contact information took place; all information will be updated and posted on the committee's website. .

3. *Bob L'Heureux motion to send a letter of appreciation regarding the outstanding job the departments did over the weekend during the Ribfest and Mall openings seconded by Fran L'Heureux and carried. All present in agreement. 9-0-0.*

Chairman Doyle stated the secretary will pen a letter and send it out to the committee for approval. The Council and Town Manager will be CC'd.

Chairman Doyle also stated that the next meeting will be sometime in the fall unless there is something really pressing and we need to meet. If you have anything pressing just email me and

it will be taken care of. I will also put something together regarding Mr. Green and Mr. Rivard meeting bringing everyone up to speed for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was voted to adjourn on a motion made by Fran L'Heureux and seconded by Glenn Wallace. Motion carries 9-0-0.

Meeting Adjourned 2pm